

Louisville Syringe Exchange Program

A proven strategy to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood borne disease in our community

Public Health and Wellness



Definition – *A syringe exchange is:*

- A public health program for people who are intravenous drug users (IDUs)
- It provides new, sterile syringes and HIV prevention supplies. It also provides a means to dispose of used and potentially contaminated syringes
- Syringe exchanges have been proven to reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood-borne infections

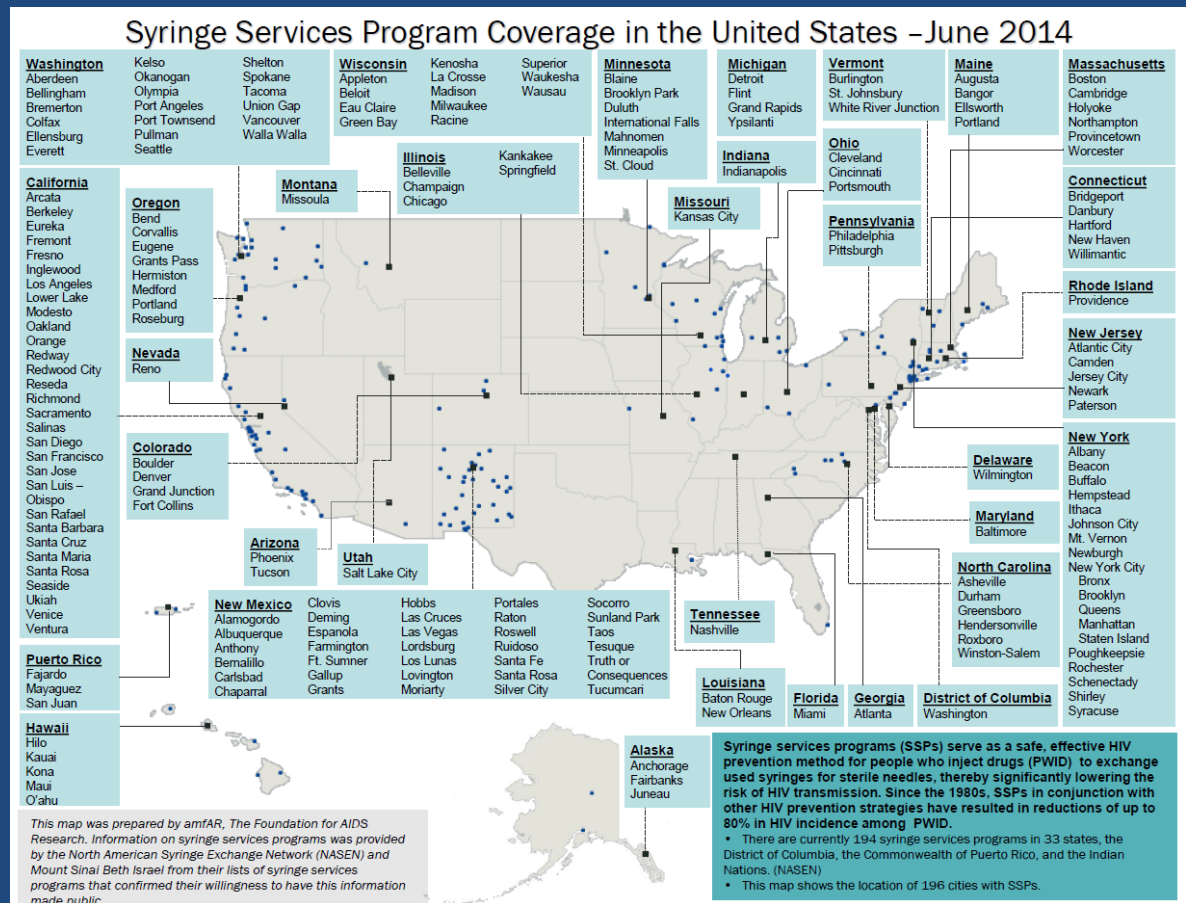


An evidence-based practice to connect IDUs to:



- **Counseling and treatment**
- **Testing for HIV, hepatitis, and other infections**
- **Education about the harms associated with drug use and how to minimize them**
- **Safe disposal of contaminated equipment**

There are syringe exchange programs in 194 cities across America.



Why Should Louisville Establish a Syringe Exchange Program?

Syringe exchange programs have been proven to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other blood borne diseases.

- A 2005 study found that HIV rates *decreased* by nearly 6% in cities that had syringe exchange programs compared to a national *increase* of nearly 6% per year.
- The number of HIV cases linked to intravenous drug use dropped by 80 percent in Washington D.C. from 2007 to 2011, with the number of cases decreasing from 149 to 30.



Preventing HIV infection in people who inject drugs also prevents HIV in pregnant women and newborn children.

- Many women who do not use drugs are at risk for HIV because they are sexual partners of injection drug users. *Syringe exchange programs can prevent mother-to baby HIV transmission.*
- KY hospitalizations for drug-dependent newborns increased from 28 in 2000 to 824 in 2012.
- Hospital charges for drug-dependent babies in KY in 2013 was \$40.2 million.



Syringe exchange programs can lead addicted individuals to seek testing, counseling and treatment.

- Syringe exchange programs bring drug addicted individuals in contact with the health system where can they be tested for HIV and hepatitis and, if positive, be treated.
- Syringe exchange programs can make drug treatment options known to addicted individuals .
- Studies show that program participants were five times more likely to enter drug treatment than IV drug users who did not participate in syringe exchange programs.



Syringe exchange programs can lead IV drug users to reduce risky behaviors.



- According to the National Institute of Health, persons who inject drugs who have access to clean needles reduce risky behaviors by “as high as 80%.”
- Syringe exchange is a best practice harm reduction model to reduce public health problems associated with blood borne diseases.

Syringe exchange programs do not lead to increased IV drug use in the cities that implement them.



- Many scientific studies, including a Surgeon General's report, show that syringe exchange do not increase drug use when conducted with referrals to both drug treatment and HIV and hepatitis C testing, medical care and support services.

Syringe exchange programs reduce the number of contaminated needles in the streets and parks.



- Syringe exchange and disposal programs actually encourage individuals to bring back used syringes to trade them in at the syringe exchange site.
- A study published in the American Journal of Public Health showed that San Francisco's syringe exchange program reduced the risk from infectious syringes left by injection drug users. The study was based on a survey of more than 600 injection drug users and a visual inspection of 1,000 city blocks in areas heavily trafficked by drug users.

Syringe exchange programs are cost effective and prevent much more costly treatments for diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C.



- The cost of providing hepatitis C treatment ranges from \$84,000 to \$300,000 per person.
- The cost of treating someone with HIV is as high as \$648,000 over the person's lifetime.
- The cost of preventing drug-related infection is 150 times more cost efficient than the cost of treating disease spread by infected syringes.

Key Facts about Louisville Metro's Syringe Exchange Program

In accordance with state (KRS218A.500) and local (Ordinance No. 58, Series 2015) law, Louisville Metro Government has established a Syringe Exchange Program with the Department of Public Health and Wellness where IV drug users can obtain clean needles to prevent the spread of disease.



The goal of the Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange Program is to reduce the transmission of blood borne diseases including HIV and hepatitis C among persons who inject drugs, their sexual partners and their newborn children.



Volunteers from fifteen agencies across Louisville have partnered with the Department of Public Health and Wellness to form a workgroup focusing on program design and implementation, researching best practices and surveying the number IV drug users currently in treatment.

- **Kentuckiana AIDS Association**
- **UofL Emergency Department**
- **COPES, Inc.**
- **Center for Behavioral Health**
- **Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Abuse Center (JADAC)**
- **Walgreens**
- **U of L School of Public Health**
- **Metro Corrections**
- **Metro Louisville Harm Reduction Task Force**
- **Neighborhood Place Fairdale**
- **Family Health Centers Phoenix**



- **550 Clinic**
- **Center for Behavioral Health**
- **AIDS Interfaith Ministries of KY**
- **Volunteers of America of Kentucky**

The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness will operate a syringe exchange site in a mobile unit adjacent its headquarters on Gray St. A licensed substance abuse counselor will provide staffing for the site.



Mobile Van Exchange Site

400 E. Gray St.

(corner of Gray and Jackson St.)

Hours of Operation

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 3pm - 6pm

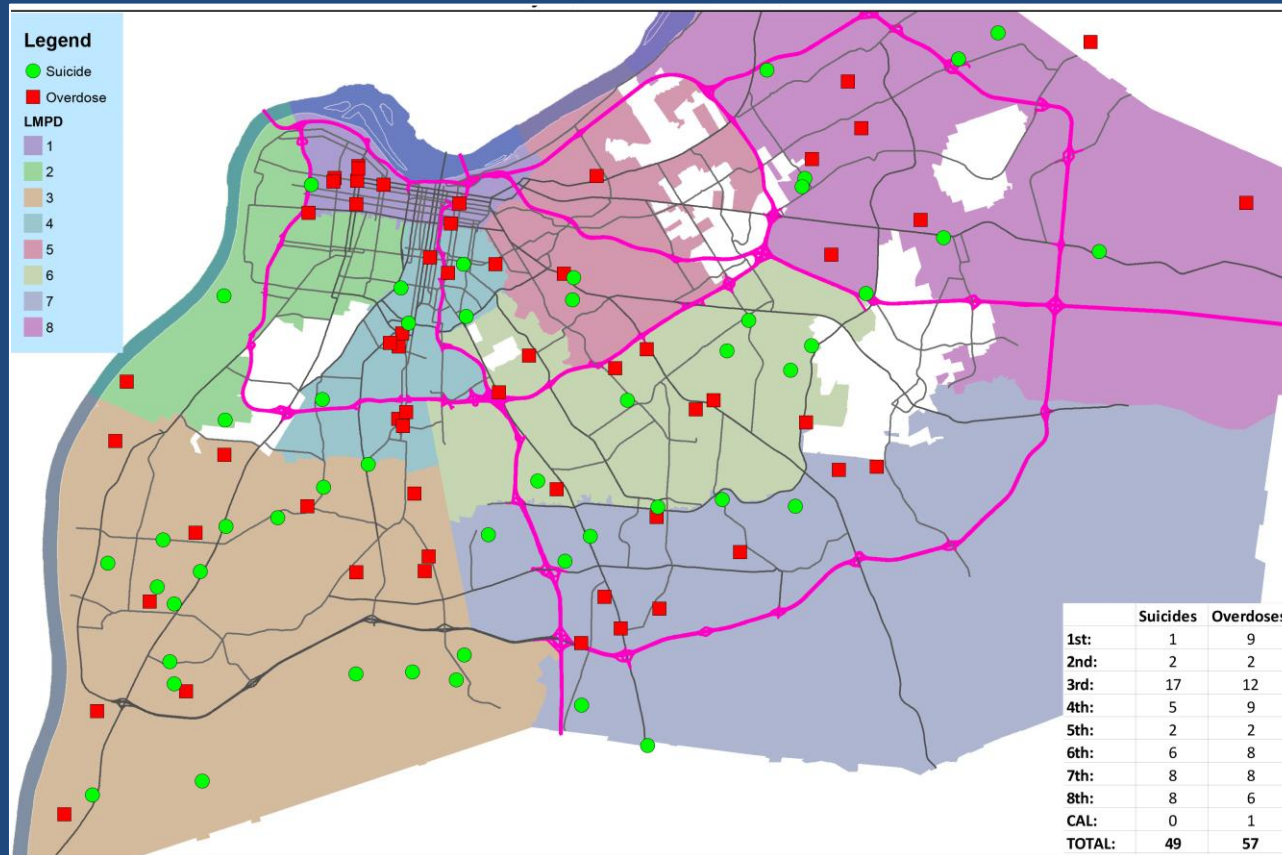
Monday, Friday, Saturday, 11am - 2pm

Phone: 502-574-6520

Preliminary operating hours are Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00am until 2:00pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00pm until 6:00pm.

These are flexible times and may change depending on the needs of participants.

Volunteers of America of Kentucky will provide street level outreach.



In the first five months of 2015 there were 57 drug overdose deaths and 49 suicide deaths in Louisville.



The syringe exchange will provide:

- *free syringes*
- *HIV testing and prevention supplies*
- *education regarding hepatitis C transmission, sexually transmitted diseases, wound care, and proper syringe disposal*

Syringes will be made available regardless of whether the client has needles to exchange. However, clients will be strongly encouraged to return their used syringes.



HIV AIDSTM

**AWARENESS &
EDUCATION**



Access to these services is voluntary and at the participant's request.

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES Louisville Metro Syringe Exchange Program



At Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness, we seek to provide exceptional care and the best possible experience for every participant. We want to work together with you to ensure you receive the clinical care, compassion and services you need. By understanding your rights and responsibilities, you can help us help you.

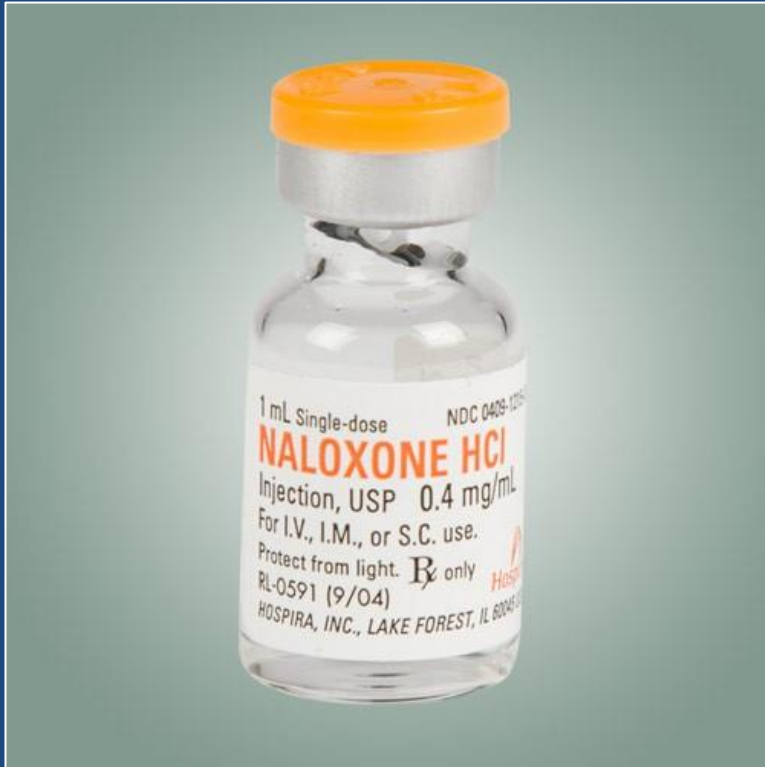
AS OUR PARTICIPANT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

- Participants will be treated with respect and dignity regardless of race, ethnicity, sex or gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, class, medical status, or physical or mental ability. We strive to create a safe place free from violence, threats and hateful language.
- Participants have the right to an active role in the LMSEP decision-making process through the Participant Advisory Board.
- Participants will receive available services, supplies, information and education. We strive for prompt service and to offer as many syringes as needed to assure safer conditions.
- Participants will be respected and have the right to privacy. Participants will be asked to provide a unique identifier so that services can be tracked for reporting and funding accountability.
- Participants will be provided confidential case management upon request.
- Participants have the right to grieve any concerns that occur during the LMSEP operating hours. Grievances are

A Participant Rights and Responsibilities form will be reviewed with each participant at the time of program enrollment.

- Referrals will be made for those who have tested HIV positive as well as those seeking drug treatment, and other health and social services.
- Participants will be educated on addiction treatment options and referred to the appropriate treatment upon their request.
- The Seven Counties Services, Inc., Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (JADAC) will assign an addictions treatment case manager to the syringe exchange program whose responsibility is to inform participants and make treatment referrals.





- Naloxone, a medication that is used to prevent overdose from opiates, will be kept on site and syringe exchange staff will be trained in the appropriate administration.
- Syringe exchange participants wishing to take home naloxone in case of future overdoses will be referred to the Louisville Metro Harm Reduction Task Force who provides naloxone along with education about proper use.

For more information

[CLICK HERE](#)

Or call

574-6520

Public Health and Wellness

